(d) the steps taken to protect interest of the IT professionals in Netherland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) 11 Indian Information Technology professionals working for an Indian firm, iFlex Solutions Pvt. Ltd., were detained by the Dutch Police for several hours on March 26, 2003, on charges of visa fraud. On the intervention of the Indian Embassy, all 11 were released and returned to India.

(c) The Government of the Netherlands has responded positively to the demarches made in this regard by the Government of India.

(d) The Government of India has conveyed to the Government of the Netherlands the seriousness with which it views such incidents.

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction work in Iraq

5050. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether following the cessation of the Iraq war, India has braced up for a new role for rehabilitation, relief and reconstruction programme in Iraq.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sounded the like-minded foreign governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the feedback received from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) to (d) In response to the UN emergency appeal for humanitarian assistance to Iraq, India has already announced a contribution of $20 million in cash and kind including 50,000 MT of wheat. In view of India's traditional friendship with the Iraqi people, India is keen to participate in the post war reconstruction of Iraq. Indian companies have wide experience of working in Iraq in the 1970s and 1980s in areas such as civil construction, infrastructural projects, industrial rehabilitation and deployment of expert manpower. Different aspects of the situation in Iraq such a humanitarian relief, easing or lifting of sanctions, and a UN role in facilitating post war political arrangements and reconstruction are currently under discussion among members of UN. India is engaged in these consultations.